



September 4, 2018

Dear Residents:

The Downtown Improvement Project along West Main Street is proceeding on schedule and will be completed soon. The old curbing and sidewalks have been replaced and conduit installed to allow for the secondary electrical, telephone and cable lines to be moved underground. The new asphalt and decorative street lighting will be completed soon. The new curbing, sidewalks, asphalt and decorative lighting will provide great infrastructure and aesthetic improvements to our downtown area. Again, we apologize to our residents and local businesses for the inconvenience caused during the construction phase of the project and we thank everyone for their patience.

I would also like to acknowledge our local businesses along West Main Street for the improvements made to their parking areas. Charlie's Bar & Grill, Portland Federal Credit Union, Little Flower Market and Ox's Smoked Meats all upgraded their existing parking areas. Working in collaboration with the Village as part of the Downtown Improvement Project, these businesses were able to make the improvements a bit more economically. Even so, their costs were still very substantial. We appreciate their investment in the Village, which in turn improves the look of the downtown area. Please show your appreciation by patronizing these and all of our local businesses.

The third annual Marian Procession took place on August 22nd. This event focuses on giving thanks for the many blessings granted to us here in Westphalia and asks that we continue to be blessed. Many thanks to Father Dennis Howard for stepping in for Father Eric to lead the procession through town. It was a very inspirational evening and we thank all who continue to pray for the success and welfare of our wonderful Village.

Mark your calendars! The Westphalia Historical Society (WHS) will be sponsoring their 4th Cemetery Walk on September 16th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the St. Mary's Cemetery. Local citizens, most often a relative of the person they are representing, will present fascinating historical information on some of our most memorable ancestors. Highlighted this year will be Ron Spitzley, Leo Bauer, Bob Trierweiler, Elizabeth Hengesbach, and Marie Catherine and Adam Fedewa. Admission is free (donations are accepted) and refreshments will be served. As always, this promises to be an interesting, informative and fun event. See the WHS Web site for more information <https://westphaliahistory.weebly.com/>. Thanks again to the WHS for continuing to educate us on our rich heritage.

Did you happen to catch the article in the Ionia Sentinel Standard newspaper on retiring DPW supervisor Jim Bierstetel? The article provides some well-deserved recognition of Jim's remarkable and dedicated 42 years of service to the Village. It can be found on the Sentinel Standard Web site at <http://www.sentinel-standard.com>.

With Labor Day behind us, summer is drawing to a close. It also means school is back in session and children will be crossing the streets more often. With this in mind, please drive with extra caution, especially during the times when the children are most present.

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia